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THE JEW AS A SEXUAL CRIMINAL

By BRUNO BLAU

The reader of National Socialist publications encounters again and again the thesis that Jews have an especially strong propensity to sexual crime.¹ Being unable to prove their thesis by official statistics the Nazi writers resort to the method of citing special cases and the same cases are used over and over again from one publication to another. Crimes of a similar character by gentiles usually go unmentioned. No generalizations regarding the special role of Jews in sex crimes are valid unless a comparative study is made of such crimes by non-Jews as well.

Erich Wulffen, an internationally recognized criminologist, pointed out many years ago that Jews do *not* figure to any unusual degree in cases of sex crimes. This he considered to be especially surprising and remarkable since, he wrote: "The Jews, by virtue of the nervous tension involved in their occupations, their proportionately high percentage of cases of mental disorders and the greater sexuality of the Semitic race, are especially disposed to sex crimes."² The reason why, according to Wulffen, Jews exhibit this restraint is to be found in their intellectual abilities, their moderation in the use of alcoholic beverages and in their strong family ties. At the time Wulffen first published these views the present author pointed out that in addition to the factors just mentioned one must also take into account the sex code to be found in the religious literature of the Jews.³ This code includes traditional and long-standing inhibitions which exercise a favorable influence on the measure of sex crimes among Jews.

¹ See especially *Die Juden in Deutschland*, issued by the Institut zum Studium der Judenfrage, 4th ed. (Berlin 1936) p. 369-79, 387; *Jüdische Moral*, in the Schriftenreihe zur weltanschaulichen Schulungsarbeit der NSDAP (Munich 1943) p. 16 ff.; Keller, J. and Andersen, H., *Die Juden als Verbrecher* (Berlin 1937) p. 138 ff.; Leers, Johann von, *Die Verbrechernatur der Juden* (Berlin 1944) p. 112 ff.; Plischke, Kurt, *Der Jude als Rassenschaender* (Berlin n.d.) p. 45 ff.

² Wulffen, Erich, *Der Sexualverbrecher* (Berlin 1910).

³ Blau, B., in *Im deutschen Reich* (1911) 77-81.

When Wulffen set down his conclusions regarding the small degree of sex crimes among Jews statistics were available for several countries which indicated clearly that the percentage of convictions for rape and sex crimes involving children was considerably lower for Jews than for non-Jews. Out of every 100,000 persons, the average number of convictions for such crimes was:

	NON-JEWS	JEWS
Germany (1903-1906)	8.9	6.6
Austria (1904-1905)	4.9	1.6
Hungary (1904)	2.9	1.07

Cases of incest were extremely infrequent among Jews. Thus, for example, in the reformatory of Himmelsthür, near Hildesheim, for the period 1878-1907, a total of 1,920 girls were committed; of these only 6 were Jewish. In Cracow (Poland), between January 1, 1900 and March 1909 there were 719 registered prostitutes; of these only 16.1 percent were Jewish while the percentage of Jews among the whole population was 29.6 percent.

Some statistical data for the later period will also dispel the possible assertion that the situation had changed in this respect since the early part of the century. We have the following figures for convictions of Jews in Canada:

	1936	1937	1938	1939
Abduction - - - - -	2	—	—	—
Abortion - - - - -	—	—	—	—
Assault, indecent - - - - -	—	—	1	1
Bigamy - - - - -	—	—	—	—
Incest - - - - -	—	—	—	—
Rape - - - - -	—	—	—	—
Rape, attempted - - - - -	1	—	—	—
Seduction - - - - -	—	—	—	—
Sodomy and bestiality - - - - -	—	1	1	—
Offenses against public morals - - - - -	5	2	3	6

In Bulgaria in the year 1910 there was once instance of a Jew convicted for concubinage; in 1920 not a single Jew was convicted of any of the sex crimes listed in the criminal code. In 1940 there were 5 cases of Jews convicted of sexual excesses and in 1941 there were 2 cases; in 1941 there were also 2 cases of Jews convicted of bigamy.

In Vienna, in the years 1922-1924, when the Jews numbered 10 percent of the entire population, the percentage of convictions of Jews for sex

crimes was 2.4 percent. In Bohemia and Moravia the number of Jews convicted for sex crimes in the years 1923-27 was as follows:

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Crimes against marriage and sexual morality - - - - -	9	7	10	4	7
Indecent assault - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—
Transgression of public morality - -	18	17	17	15	9

In Latvia in 1925 only two Jews were convicted for sex offences.

For Hungary we have the following figures for average convictions per year.

	1904-1908		1909-1913	
	Total		Total	
	Popu- lation	Jews	Popu- lation	Jews
Rape and violations of public morality - - - - -	264.1	4.0	407.4	4.2
Other sex crimes - - - - -	251.8	16.0	340.0	28.0
Bigamy - - - - -	9.2	1.2	10.8	0.0

In Germany the average number of convictions for every 100,000 persons was as follows:

	Rape and sex crimes involving children				Sodomy	
	Incest				Gentiles	Jews
	Gentiles	Jews	Gentiles	Jews		
1907-08 - -	0.7	0.1	8.4	6.4	1.0	0.8
1909-10 - -	0.7	0.0	8.2	4.4	1.1	0.3
1911-12 - -	0.7	0.0	8.4	4.5	1.2	1.0
1913-14 - -	0.8	0.1	8.2	3.7	1.0	1.0
1915-16 - -	0.5	0.1	4.0	3.3	0.5	0.3
1936-37 - -	1.1	0.0	11.2	4.4	10.2	10.6

It should be noted that German criminal statistics resumed the practice of differentiation according to religious groups in 1936 after a long period of interruption. During the intervening period there had been a great increase in the number of convictions for sodomy (in this case it was largely homosexuality) and during the Third Reich it increased more than tenfold. During the first years of Nazi rule this practice was widespread in leading party circles and it is sad to have to record that for a

time even Jews followed the same pattern. For the period following 1939 it is impossible to compare the number of convictions of German Jews with the figures relating to the rest of the population since, as a result of the war, a large part of the gentile population was no longer under civil jurisdiction and the number of Jews decreased sharply as a result of emigration and deportation. We can, therefore, provide only the absolute figures for this period. These figures are taken from published official statistics for the period ending June 30, 1940 and from a secret memorandum of the Statistical Office of the German Reich, which is now in the archives of the Yiddish Scientific Institute (Yivo) in New York City.⁴ According to these sources the number of convictions of Jews in Germany was as follows:

	1939	1940	1941	1942	up to June 30, 1943 ⁵
Incest - - - - -	—	—	5	—	—
Sodomy - - - - -	29	11	16	2	3
Sex crimes involving children	11	11	9	4	1
Rape - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—

Convictions for sodomy, which numbered 59 in 1937, decreased sharply until they disappeared almost completely. The same applies to sex crimes involving children. There was only one case of rape during the entire period. A striking fact is the number of convictions for incest in 1941. This crime rarely appeared in the records of Jews in other countries. A possible explanation for these cases in Germany may be found in the complete isolation of the Jews from the rest of the population.

The above figures for the various European countries, derived from the official publications of the governmental statistical bureaus, demonstrate beyond doubt the low degree of sexual criminality among Jews and also that the situation did not get any worse after 1910. The conclusion reached by Wulffen in 1910 is, therefore, equally valid for the later period of the Nazi regime and requires no significant emendation. Allegations to the contrary by the Nazi propagandists and pseudo-scientists are brazen fabrications that, unfortunately, were taken up and believed by many, without the sense of obligation to test their validity.

⁴ Cf. *Yivo Bleter*, vol. xxvi (1945) 210-17.

⁵ In accordance with regulation number 13 of the Reich citizenship law the German courts ceased taking up Jewish cases after July 1, 1943. Such cases were dealt with thereafter by direct police action.